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Enrich Your Gardening Knowledge in 2016
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UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

One thing all Master Gardeners share is a love of sharing gardening knowledge! Your El Dorado County Master Gardeners' specific mission is to teach and effectively extend UCCE research-based information through the use of trained and certified volunteers to address gardening needs in our county. Hold on to those gardening hats out there, because 2016 will be a banner year with over 50 Master Gardening classes that will be offered locally. Classes are free to the public.

Our Master Gardening program has over 150 volunteers, and within that group are experts in every aspect of backyard gardening: from veggies and fruits to water-efficient gardening, worms to orchids, grapes and olives to butterflies -- you name it, and your local UCCE Master Gardeners have someone who excels in specific horticultural areas, and knows what works best in our foothill environment. More importantly, these experts are ready, willing, and able to share their experience with you in our local public education classes. Classes will be offered in various Placerville locations on most Saturdays, to include "hands-on" experiences whenever possible at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, located behind the El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College, on Campus Drive in Placerville. And through cooperation with the Cameron Park Community Center, monthly midweek classes will be offered for those unable to take advantage of Saturday venues.

January and February offerings include pruning fruit trees and fire-wise landscaping techniques. Spring and summer veggies, rose pruning, and gardens for the foothills will also be offered. Late winter offerings include gardening with native plants, growing from seeds, tomatoes, beekeeping and getting plants ready for the El Dorado County Fair.

Springtime gardening offers wonderful variety in our foothills, and our classes help you dig in! Worms, salsa gardens, herbs, perennials, landscaping to edible plants are on tap. Water efficient gardening and living with oaks round out the agenda.

Summer gets into full swing with classes for kids, such as terrariums and raising worms. Other varied classes include irrigation, soil, roses and orchids, pears and apples as well as cottage gardens all give local backyard gardeners many options to round out their backyard havens.

In the fall when your new garden ventures slow, we'll teach you how to put your garden to bed for the winter, building raised garden beds and fall plant propagation. Seed saving, composting and olives are worthy topics, as well as water-thrifty native plants and replacing your lawn strategies. Growing grapes, planting ornamental grasses and building greenhouses will end the year on a high note.

Whatever your gardening interests are, 2016 Master Gardening classes are sure to cover subjects you'd like to learn more about. Check out our website, or call our office, for information on

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public education classes. Master Gardeners can also make presentations to local groups: just call and ask! We look forward to sharing a world of gardening knowledge with you in 2016.

Join Master Gardeners Pam Lane and Walt Miller this Saturday, January 9, 2016 for the free Pruning Fruit Trees class at Folsom Lake College in Placerville. Basics to be covered are how and when fruit trees grow, how to prune to minimize injury, and when and when not to prune. The discussion will also focus on how to prune to establish a structurally sound tree that produces fruit. The three hour class begins at 9:00 in Folsom Lake College – El Dorado Center, 6699 Campus Drive, RM A-101; concluding with live demonstrations in the adjoining Sherwood Demonstration Garden Fruit Tree Orchard.

UCCE Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County website at <http://ucanr.edu/edmg>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.